

## **APPENDIX R-4—LETTER FROM USFWS RELATED TO BIOLOGICAL OPINION**

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The required consultation by the Threatened and Endangered Species Act has been completed. A copy of Biological Opinion can be found on the attached CD.

Memorandum

To: Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, UT 84501

From: Utah Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, West Valley City, Utah

Subject: Biological Opinion for BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP), Price Field Office (PFO)

**Comment [f1j1]:** Replace with the Formal letter from the FWS.

This document transmits the Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Biological Opinion based on our review of potential activities described under the Resource Management Plan of the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Price Field Office's (PFO) and their potential effects on the federally threatened Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), Last Chance townsendia (*Townsendia aprica*), Winkler pincushion cactus (*Pediocactus winkleri*), Maguire daisy (*Erigeron maguirei*), Jones cycladenia (*Cycladenia humilis* var. *jonesii*) and the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), bonytail (*Gila elegans*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Barneby reed-mustard (*Schoenocrambe barnebyi*), Wright fishhook cactus (*Sclerocactus wrightiae*), and San Rafael cactus (*Pediocactus despaninii*) in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). In addition, this document includes the Conference Opinion for the candidate species yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*). Critical habitat was designated for the Mexican spotted owl on February 01, 2001 and was re-designated August 31, 2004 (66 FR 8530, 69 FR 53181). Critical habitat was designated for the southwestern willow flycatcher on October 12, 2004 (69 FR 60705). Your July 21, 2008 request for formal consultation for all aforementioned species was received on July 23, 2008.

Price FO BLM Resource Management Plan proposed activities are categorized into the following 15 programs:

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Fire and Fuels Management
- Forestry and Woodland Management
- Hazardous Materials Management
- Lands and Realty Management
- Recreation Management
- Riparian, Soils and Water Management
- Special Status Species Management
- Special Management Areas
- Vegetation Resources
- Visual Resources
- Wild Horse and Burro Management
- Transportation and access and Access Management

This Biological Opinion and Conference Opinion is based on information provided in the July 21<sup>st</sup> 2008 Biological Assessment, personal communications between the USFWS's biologists and the BLM's biologists, telephone conversations, email correspondence, conference calls, planning meetings, and other sources of information. A complete administrative record of this consultation is on file at this office.

**Consultation History**

This section summarizes significant steps in the consultation process. Additional correspondence, and email transmissions, that occurred between February 12, 2008, and September 25, 2008 are documented in the administrative record for this consultation.

- January 29, 2008: BLM electronically sent a draft Biological Assessment for the Price BLM Field Office Resource Management Plan to the USFWS for review;
- February 2008 through April 11, 2008: The USFWS reviewed and provided comments on the draft Biological Assessments;
- July 23, 2008: We received the final version of the PFO Biological Assessment and began formal consultation;

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